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13-31 May and 17-21 June 1991
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotated provisional agenda

Section I of this document contains the provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1991, as approved by the Council in decision 1991/202; section II contains the annotations to the provisional agenda.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1991

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

3. Non-governmental organizations.

4. United Nations University.

5. Statistical and cartographic questions:

   (a) Statistics;

   (b) Cartography.

6. World social situation.

7. Social development.

8. Human rights questions.

9. Advancement of women.

10. Narcotic drugs. 1/

11. Elections and nominations.

12. Provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991.

1/ At its organizational session for 1991, the Council decided to consider this item at its resumed first regular session, to be held from 17 to 21 June 1991 (decision 1991/208, para. (b)).

II. ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. At its organizational session for 1991, the Council decided that its first regular session of 1991, which was to have been held from 7 to 31 May, would be held from 13 to 31 May (decision 1991/208). It also approved its provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1991 (decision 1991/202 B). In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, should any proposals be submitted for the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda, they will be circulated as soon as they are received, and a supplementary list of items will be issued as an addendum to the present document.

2. Also at its organizational session for 1991, the Council agreed on the following allocation of items: items 1 to 5 and 11 and 12 would be considered in plenary meeting; and items 6 to 10 would be considered by the Second (Social) Committee (decision 1991/202 C).

3. Attention is drawn to Council resolution 1989/114, section II, relating to documentation, whereby the Council decided that the President of the Council and other members of the Bureau should continually monitor, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the status of the preparation of documentation, taking into account relevant decisions on documentation, and should propose appropriate measures to the Council, after having held informal meetings to be convened at least eight weeks before each session of the Council, bearing in mind the need to adhere to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council and other relevant rules and regulations.

4. The Council agreed to consider under this item the questions set out below:

(a) Emergency assistance to Somalia. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to help Somalia in its emergency and rehabilitation programme, to apprise the Council at its first regular session of 1991 of his efforts, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 45/229). The Council will hear an oral report on the subject.

(b) Emergency assistance for the economic and social rehabilitation of Liberia. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the appropriate authority in Liberia, to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to assist that country in its emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, to mobilize resources for the implementation of the necessary programmes, to keep the international community informed of the needs of the country and to apprise the Council, at its first regular session of 1991, of his efforts and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 45/232). The Council will hear an oral report on the subject.

(c) Enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. At its organizational session for 1991, the Council decided, pursuant to its decision 1990/285, to consider at its first regular session of 1991, under agenda item 1, the question of the enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (decision 1991/206).

(d) Dates of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. The Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters is scheduled to be held at Geneva from 9 to 13 December 1991. A request has been made to change the dates to 11 to 17 December 1991. The Council will need to take a decision on the matter.

Documentation

Note verbale dated 27 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1990/121)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparedness of documentation for the first regular session of 1991 (E/1991/L.14/Rev.1)

Item 2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

5. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination with a view to submitting to the General Assembly the Council's report as requested in paragraph 11 of Assembly resolution 39/16.

6. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 10 December 1983 the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; approved the Programme of Action for the Second Decade annexed to the resolution and called upon all States to cooperate in its implementation; and requested the Council to take charge, with the help of the Secretary-General, of coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action and of evaluating the activities undertaken during the Second Decade (resolution 38/14).

7. At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided upon specific action to be carried out during the period 1985-1989; requested Governments to forward a report every two years on the action taken under the Programme of Action, on the basis of a questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General, which reports would be transmitted to the Council for its consideration; requested the Council, during the period of the Decade, to submit an annual report to the Assembly, containing: (a) an enumeration of the activities undertaken or contemplated to achieve the objectives of the Decade, including the activities of Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, (b) a review and appraisal of those activities and (c) its suggestions and recommendations (resolution 39/16). At its forty-second session, the General Assembly approved the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 (resolution 42/47).

8. At its first regular session of 1985, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (resolution 1985/19). At its first regular session of 1987, the Council requested the Secretary-General to present, in his future annual reports to the Council on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, more detailed information on the relevant activities of all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1987/2). At its first regular session of 1990, the Council adopted resolution 1990/49 on this subject.

9. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to implement immediately those activities scheduled for the period 1985-1989 not yet carried out and to proceed with the implementation of the activities scheduled for the biennium 1990-1991, requested him, therefore, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 42/47 and 44/52, to ensure that the necessary and additional resources were included in the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 to provide for the implementation of the activities of the Second Decade and requested him to inform the Assembly of the steps taken in that regard, requested him also to continue to accord the highest priority, in executing the plan of activities, to measures for combating apartheid, took note of the report on the activities of the Second Decade, and reiterated its requests to the Economic and Social Council, throughout the Decade, to submit a report annually to the General Assembly (resolution 45/105).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Item 3. Non-governmental organizations

10. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Headquarters, 21 January-1 February 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee were approved by the Council in its decision 1989/107.

11. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which meets biennially, reports to the Council in accordance with Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1926 (XLIV).

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1991/20)

Letter dated 4 March 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1991/43)

Item 4. United Nations University

12. The Council will consider the report of the Council of the United Nations University on its work during the period from January to December 1990 (General Assembly resolutions 3081 (XXVIII) and 39/217). 2/ The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 45/220.

Documentation

Report of the Council of the United Nations University (E/1991/15)

Item 5. Statistical and cartographic questions

(a) Statistics

13. The Council will consider the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-sixth session (Headquarters, 4-13 February 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein (resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L)). The provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-sixth session were approved by the Council in decision 1989/115.

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-sixth session (E/1991/25, Supplement No. 5)

(b) Cartography

14. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 20-28 February 1991) (decision 1987/136).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Item 6. World social situation

15. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis and, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 44/56, to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Commission of Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, and a full report in 1993. The Assembly endorsed the request of the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1990/28, that the Secretary-General take

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2/ The report will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1991.

into account, in preparing the interim report, paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72, in which the Secretary-General was requested, in preparing the 1993 report, to give high priority to an analysis of the main indicators of social progress and standards of living, and to make a comprehensive analysis of the main causes and circumstances that explain negative trends in those indicators; chapters devoted to the study of specific social problems were to be related to global economic and social situations, taking into account both national and international conditions. The Assembly also endorsed the request made in paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1989/72 regarding the submission of a report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the work being done within the United Nations system to improve and further develop quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure accurately the social condition and the standard of living of the world's population, particularly in developing countries (resolution 45/87).

16. The Council, at its first regular session of 1990, decided to include in the agenda of its first regular session of 1991 an item entitled "World social situation", for the purpose of considering, inter alia, the interim report on the world social situation and the report requested in paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1989/72.

Documentation

Interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (A/46/56-E/1991/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work being done within the United Nations system to improve and further develop quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure accurately the social condition and standards of living of the world's population, particularly in developing countries

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session (E/1991/26, Supplement No. 6)

Item 7. Social development

17. The Council will consider the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session (Vienna, 11-20 February 1991). The provisional agenda and documentation for the session were approved by the Council in decision 1989/131.

18. Commission for Social Development. Its report is expected to include the recommendations of the Commission on the following questions, of which the Council is also seized:

(a) International Year of the Family. The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, proclaimed 1994 as International Year of the Family, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year and to submit a progress report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session, and designated the Commission as the

preparatory body and the Council as the co-ordinating body of the Year (resolution 44/82). At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the preparation for and observance of the Year, and also requested the Secretary-General to finalize a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year and to submit it for consideration by the Commission at its session in 1991 and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the progress made in the preparation for the Year (resolution 45/133);

(b) Policies and programmes involving youth. The General Assembly, at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, called upon all States, all United Nations bodies, in particular the Economic and Social Council through the Commission for Social Development, the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to continue to exert all possible efforts for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (resolutions 44/59 and 45/103);

(c) Extreme poverty. The Council, at its first regular session of 1988, urged the Commission to suggest, on the basis of an assessment of its studies, strategies that would help put an end to the marginalization of people living in extreme poverty, irrespective of the economic and social system to which they belong, and to submit its views to the Council for consideration at its first regular session of 1991 (resolution 1988/47);

(d) Preparatory activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action on Aging, in 1992. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly decided to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Aging in the plenary General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in 1992 (resolution 43/93). At its first regular session of 1989, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Council to monitor the preparatory activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action, and recommended the convening of a special ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session to monitor the activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action (resolution 1989/50). At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly endorsed the decision of the Council and recommended that the Commission give consideration to the desirability of convening regional and sectoral meetings on the selection of targets in the field of aging during 1991 and 1992 and global consultations in 1993 and 1997 (resolution 45/106);

(e) Negative social consequences of alcohol use. The General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, took note of the report of the Expert Meeting on the Negative Social Consequences of Alcohol Use, held at Oslo from 27 to 31 August 1990, requested the Secretary-General to make the report available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session, and requested the Commission to report on its discussion of the report and on the comments from Member States to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991, with proposals for future action (resolution 45/134);

(f) At its first regular session of 1990, the Council authorized the Commission to consider the establishment of an ad hoc open ended working group of government experts to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults (resolution 1990/26).

19. Crime prevention and criminal justice. The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was held at Havana from 27 August to 7 September 1990. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council invited the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, in considering the report of the Eighth Congress, to take appropriate measures to ensure the timely implementation and proper follow-up of the recommendations contained therein, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, at its first regular session of 1991, a progress report on the implementation of the resolution, paying particular attention to action taken by the Assembly at its forty-fifth session (resolution 1990/27). The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 45/121.

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session (E/1991/26, Supplement No. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1990/27 on crime prevention and criminal justice (E/1991/19)

Item 8. Human rights questions

20. The Council will consider the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee at its forty-first session and the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifth session.

21. The Council will also consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-seventh session (Geneva, 28 January-8 March 1991) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation of the forty-seventh session were approved by the Council in decision 1990/253.

22. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee reports annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. In 1991, the Human Rights Committee is to hold its forty-first session at Headquarters from 25 March to 12 April, its forty-second session at Geneva from 8 to 26 July and its forty-third session at Geneva from 21 October to 8 November.

23. It will be recalled that, at its organizational session for 1983, the Council invited the Human Rights Committee to consider the possibility of rescheduling its meetings so that its report could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Council at its first regular session (decision 1983/101). At its organizational session for 1985, the Council agreed to the interim arrangement proposed by the

Human Rights Committee, namely, that the Committee would transmit to the Council, on a regular basis, the text of the general comments adopted by the Committee in accordance with article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant; and, without prejudice to further consideration of the present arrangements at a future session, the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the General Assembly (decision 1985/105).

24. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, entrusted by the Council, as from 1987, with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17), will report on its fifth session, to be held at Geneva from 26 November to 14 December 1990. It will be recalled that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 3 January 1976. Under article 16 of the Covenant, States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the measures which they have adopted and on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. The Secretary-General is required to transmit copies of the reports to the Council for its consideration. The Secretary-General is also required to transmit to the specialized agencies copies of the reports, or any relevant parts thereof, from States parties to the Covenant which are also members of those specialized agencies in so far as they relate to matters that fall within the purview of the agencies in accordance with their constitutional instruments.

25. At its sixtieth session, in 1976, the Council laid down the procedures for the implementation of the Covenant (resolution 1988 (LX)). The Council set out a programme under which States parties would furnish, in biennial stages, the reports referred to in article 16 of the Covenant, as follows: first stage, rights covered by articles 6 to 9; second stage, rights covered by articles 10 to 12; third stage, rights covered by articles 13 to 15. The Council also called upon the specialized agencies to submit to the Council reports on the progress made in the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities, as provided under article 18 of the Covenant.

26. At its first regular session of 1985, the Council decided, while maintaining the current programme of biennial reports for the first cycle of the reporting procedure under article 16 of the Covenant, to prolong by one year, the periodicity of reporting under the second and subsequent cycles of the reporting procedure (decision 1985/132). At its first regular session of 1988, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that States parties be requested to submit a single report within two years of the entry into force of the Covenant for the State party concerned and, thereafter, at five-year intervals (resolution 1988/4).

27. At its first regular session of 1978, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1988 (LX), the Council decided to establish, for the purpose of assisting it in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant, a sessional working group composed of 15 members of the Council which were also States parties to the Covenant (decision 1978/10). At its first regular session of 1985, the Council decided that the Working Group established by Council decision 1978/10 and modified by Council decision 1981/158 and resolution 1982/33

should be renamed "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"; that the Committee should have 18 members who should be experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of different forms of social and legal systems; that the Committee should meet annually for a period of up to three weeks, taking into account the number of reports to be examined; and that it should submit to the Council a report on its activities and make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant; the Council also decided to review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Committee at its first regular session of 1990, and subsequently every five years, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution of its membership (resolution 1985/17).

28. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council approved the Committee's provisional rules of procedure as adopted by the Committee at its third session (E/1989/22, annex IV) and amended at its fourth session (E/1990/23) (decision 1990/251).

29. Commission on Human Rights. The report of the Commission is expected to include its response to the following resolutions:

(a) Enlargement of the Commission. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council decided to increase the membership of the Commission on Human Rights to 53 and to allocate the 10 additional seats among the regional groups of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, further decided that the enlarged membership of the Commission should be elected in 1991, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the organizational implications of the resolution for consideration by the Commission at its forty-seventh session, and requested the Commission to submit its observations to the Council at its first regular session of 1991 (resolution 1990/48);

(b) Human rights and scientific and technological developments. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Commission to consider the subject at its forty-seventh session, in the light of the report and recommendations of the Working Group charged with the elaboration of a body of principles for the protection of persons with mental illness and for the improvement of mental health care, with a view to submitting the draft principles to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council (resolution 45/92);

(c) Problems of the environment and its relation to human rights. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly encouraged the Commission, with the assistance of its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to continue studying the problems of the environment and its relation to human rights, with a view to submitting to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through the Council, a report on progress made on the matter (resolution 45/94);

(d) Right to development. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly called upon the Commission to continue to make proposals to the Assembly, through the Council, on the future course of action on the right to development, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration on the Right to Development (resolution 45/97);

(e) Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Commission to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration and to report, through the Council, to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session (resolution 45/36);

(f) Observance of the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly called upon the Commission, at its forty-seventh session, to give priority to the review of the fundamental factors that negatively affect the observance of the principles and to report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Council (resolution 45/151);

(g) Situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to keep under consideration, during its forty-sixth session, the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador in order to re-examine the situation in the light of the information provided by the Commission and the Council (resolution 45/72);

(h) Situation of human rights in Afghanistan. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to keep under consideration, during its forty-sixth session, the situation of human rights in Afghanistan in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council (resolution 45/174).

30. Infringements of trade union rights in South Africa. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study the situation and to report thereon to the Commission on Human Rights and the Council, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its first regular session of 1991, for consideration and action, as appropriate, a report on the implementation of the resolution (Council resolution 1990/44).

31. Suppression of the traffic in persons. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report further to the Council, at its first regular session of 1991, on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1983/30, on the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others, by those Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations that had not yet submitted such information, endorsed the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1989/35, which had been reiterated in its resolution 1990/63, that the Secretary-General designate the Centre for Human Rights as the focal point for the coordination of activities in the United Nations for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery, and decided to consider the question of the suppression of the traffic in persons at

its first regular session of 1991 under the agenda item entitled "Human rights" (resolution 1990/46).

32. International Year for the World's Indigenous People. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly proclaimed 1993 as International Year for the World's Indigenous People, with a view to strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, health and so on, recommended that the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system consider at their respective forums the contributions that they could make to the success of the Year, requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its forty-seventh session possible United Nations activities in connection with the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session a draft programme of activities based on the recommendations of the Council and of the specialized agencies (resolution 45/164).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the general comments of the Human Rights Committee adopted at its forty-first session

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifth session (E/1991/23, Supplement No. 3)

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-seventh session (E/1991/22, Supplement No. 2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/44 on infringements of trade union rights in South Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the suppression of traffic in persons (E/1991/18)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the relevant section of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa of the Commission on Human Rights regarding infringements of trade union rights (E/1991/41)

Letter dated 5 January 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/59-E/1991/7)

Letter dated 19 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/71-E/1991/9)

Documentation for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)

Reports submitted by the specialized agencies in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)

Summary records of the fifth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Item 9. Advancement of women

33. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its tenth session (Vienna, 21 January-1 February 1991), the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the work of its thirty-fifth session (Vienna, 27 February-8 March 1991) and the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (New York, 19-22 February 1991). The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in decision 1990/214.

34. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was established under article 17 of the Convention for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

35. Report of the Commission on the Status of Women. In accordance with Council resolution 1987/24 on the long-term programme of work of the Commission to the year 2000, the following three priority themes are to be considered by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session: under equality, vulnerable women, including migrant women; under development, national, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations; under peace, refugee and displaced women and children. The report of the Commission is expected to include the recommendations of the Commission on the following questions:

(a) Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. At its first regular session of 1990, the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to carry out, through the Department of Public Information, a world-wide educational campaign to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and to report to the Council at its first regular session of 1991, through the Commission, on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 1990/14). At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically, through the Commission, to the Council on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies (resolution 45/129);

(b) World conference on women in 1995. In its resolution 1990/12, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 45/129, the Council recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995, requested the Commission, as the preparatory body for the world conference, to include preparations for the conference in its regular work programme during the period 1991-1995, and requested the Secretary-General to make proposals on the preparation and convening of the world conference for submission to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session.

36. Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. At its sixtieth session, in 1976, the Council decided to establish the Institute as an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, funded through voluntary contributions; it also decided on guidelines for the Institute (resolution 1998 (LX)). The statute of the Board was approved by the Council and endorsed by the General Assembly (Council decision 1984/124 and Assembly resolution 39/249). The Institute functions under the authority of a Board of Trustees, which reports annually to the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its tenth session (A/46/38, Supplement No. 38)

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session (E/1991/28, Supplement No. 8)

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1991/21)

Item 10. Narcotic drugs

37. At its organizational session for 1991, the Council was informed that the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was to have been held from 30 January to 8 February 1991, would be held from 29 April to 9 May 1991. The Council decided to consider the item entitled "Narcotic drugs" at its resumed first regular session of 1991, to be held from 17 to 21 June (decision 1991/208, para. (b)).

38. At the same session, in decision 1991/201, the Council requested the Commission to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole in order to assist it in the consideration of ways and means of improving its functioning (see para. 39 (b) below).

39. The Council will consider, at its resumed first regular session, the report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session and take action on the recommendations contained therein. It is expected that the Commission will report on its consideration of the following subjects:

(a) Economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly invited the Commission to study the various recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs, in particular on the proposed framework for an in-depth study on the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session through the Council (resolution 45/149);

(b) Enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. At the same session, the Assembly requested the Commission, at its thirty-fourth session, to consider ways and means of improving its functioning as a policy-making body and to report its recommendations to the Council at its first regular session of 1991. It requested the Council, as a matter of urgency at that session, giving due consideration to the recommendations of the Commission, to undertake a review of, and decide on the appropriate changes needed to improve the functioning of, the Commission (resolution 45/179).

40. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board. In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 1990.

41. United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. At its first regular session of 1987, the Council decided that the Executive Director of the Fund should report regularly on the activities and programmes of the Fund to the Commission, and to the Council when the Council considered the report of the Commission (resolution 1987/32).

42. In this connection, attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 45/179, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to create a single drug control programme, to be called the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which will be based at Vienna, and to integrate fully therein the structures and the functions of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General to place the financial resources of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control under the direct responsibility of the head of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a fund for financing operational activities, mainly in developing countries.

43. United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), to coordinate, at the inter-agency level, the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control aimed at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions of intergovernmental bodies throughout the system, using as a guide the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the

recommendations in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline for Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. It also requested the executive heads of the United Nations bodies to report annually to ACC on the progress made in implementing the action plan and requested the Committee to include the same information in its annual report, so as to enable the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Council to consider it, within their respective mandates, and to make appropriate reports to the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 44/141).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-fourth session (E/1991/24, Supplement No. 4)

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1990 (E/1991/11)

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control

Item 11. Elections and nominations

44. The Council will hold elections to the following bodies:

Statistical Commission (E/1991/L.1)

Eight members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

One member from Western European and other States.

Population Commission (E/1991/L.1)

Nine members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

One member from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

Commission for Social Development (E/1991/L.1)

Eleven members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Two members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Three members from Western European and other States.

Commission on Human Rights (E/1991/L.1)

Fourteen members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Three members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Three members from Western European and other States.

Commission on the Status of Women (E/1991/L.1)

Ten members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations, for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

One member from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1991/L.1)

Twenty members are to be elected for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992. The Council, in resolution 1983/5, decided to enlarge the membership of the Commission to 40, taking into account the special criteria used in electing members of the Commission and keeping the actual percentage. These criteria were specified by the Council in resolution 845 (XXXII), by which the Council decided that the members of the Commission should be elected (a) from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; (b) with due regard to the adequate representation of countries which were important producers of opium or coca leaves, of countries which were important in the field of the manufacture of narcotic drugs and of countries in which drug addiction or illicit traffic in narcotic drugs constituted an important problem; and (c) taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Commission on Human Settlements (E/1991/L.2)

(a) Nineteen members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Five members from African States;

Five members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Four members from Western European and other States;

(b) The election of five members was postponed from previous sessions:

(i) Three members from African States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994;

(ii) Two members from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994.

Commission on Transnational Corporations (E/1991/L.3)

(a) Sixteen members are to be elected from all States for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Four members from African States;

Three members from Asian States;

One member from Eastern European States;

Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Four members from Western European and other States;

(b) The election of two members was postponed from previous sessions:

(i) One member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993;

(ii) One member from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/1991/L.4)

(a) Seventeen members are to be elected for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Four members from African States;

Four members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Four members from Western European and other States;

(b) The election of three members was postponed from previous sessions:

(i) One member from African States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993;

(ii) One member from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993;

(iii) One member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1993.

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1991/L.5)

Twenty-one members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency for a three-year term, beginning on 1 August 1991, according to the following pattern:

Six members from African States;

Four members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Six members from Western European and other States.

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/138, the Council is to elect one additional member of the Executive Committee, thereby increasing the membership from 43 to 44.

Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (E/1991/L.6)

Sixteen members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for a three-year term, beginning on the first day of the organizational meeting of the Governing Council in February 1992, according to the following pattern:

Five members from African States;

Three members from Asian States and Yugoslavia;

One member from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Six members from Western European and other States.

Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (E/1991/L.7)

Five members are to be elected from States Members of the United Nations or members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, taking into account the need for balanced representation of economically developed and developing countries and other relevant factors, such as the representation of potential participating countries, both contributing and recipient, equitable geographical distribution and the representation of both developed and developing countries having commercial interests in international trade in foodstuffs, especially those highly dependent on such trade.

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

In accordance with article 4 of the Regulations Governing the United Nations Population Award (General Assembly resolution 36/201, annex, and decision 41/445), the Council is to elect 10 representatives of States Members of the United Nations for a period of three years, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and the need to include those Member States that have made contributions for the Award. The rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award are set out in Council decision 1982/112.

At its resumed second regular session of 1982, the Council agreed that, without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, the seats would be distributed as follows: three seats for African States; two and a half seats for Asian States and Latin American States (the distribution to be determined by those two groups themselves, on the understanding that one group would have three seats and the other two, on a rotating basis); one seat for Eastern European States and one seat for Western European and other States (see E/1982/SR.54 and 58). The Council is therefore to elect the 10 members for a three-year term, beginning on 1 January 1992, according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

One member from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

One member from Western European and other States.

International Narcotics Control Board (E/1991/___, E/1991/___)

Seven members of the International Narcotics Control Board are to be elected to fill vacancies which will occur on 1 March 1992. In accordance with article 10, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the term of the members to be elected is five years, beginning on 2 March 1992.

Two of the seven members whose terms will expire on 1 March 1992 were elected from among candidates nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO); the other five were elected from among candidates nominated by States Members of the United Nations and by parties to the Single Convention that are not members of the United Nations. Therefore, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1 (a) and (b), of the Single Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, two members are to be elected from a list of at least three persons nominated by WHO and the remaining five are to be elected from a list of persons nominated by States Members of the United Nations and by parties to the Single Convention that are not members of the United Nations. Documents containing the names of all persons nominated by Governments and by WHO will be before the Council.

Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1991/___)

In accordance with article III of the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Board of Trustees consists of 11 members nominated by States and appointed by the Council with due regard to the fact that the Institute and its work are funded from voluntary contributions and to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Members of the Board serve in their individual capacities for a three-year term and are eligible for appointment for one additional term.

The term of office of five members of the Board expires on 30 June 1991. Taking into account the existing de facto geographical balance of the Board, endorsed by the Council at previous sessions, the Council is to appoint one member from African States, one member from Asian States, one member from Eastern European States, one member from Latin American and Caribbean States and one member from Western European and other States for a three-year term, beginning on 1 July 1991. The names of the candidates submitted by Governments and their curricula vitae will be before the Council.

Nomination of members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/1991/L.8)

Seven members are to be nominated by the Council, in accordance with Council resolution 2008 (LX), for election by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session to fill the vacancies in the Committee that will occur on 31 December 1991. The term of office is three years, beginning on 1 January 1992. The vacancies are to be filled according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

One member from Eastern European States;

Two members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

Nomination of members of the World Food Council (E/1991/L.9)

In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), the Council will be called upon to nominate 12 members of the World Food Council for election by the Assembly at its forty-sixth session to fill the vacancies that will occur on 31 December 1991. On the basis of the distribution of membership in the World Food Council decided upon by the Assembly, the elections at the forty-sixth session will be held according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Two members from Asian States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

Elections postponed from previous sessions

Committee on Natural Resources

The election of 20 members was postponed from previous sessions:

(a) Six members from African States, three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994 and three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1992;

(b) Six members from Asian States, three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994 and three for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1992;

(c) Eight members from Western European and other States, four for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1994 and four for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1992.

Item 12. Provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991

45. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Council will consider the draft provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991, together with suggestions concerning the organization of work. The second regular session is to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 3 to 25 July 1991.

46. At its organizational session for 1990, the Council approved, subject to rule 9, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure, a list of questions for consideration at the second regular session (decision 1991/202 D); decided on the allocation of items (decision 1991/202 E); and took decisions in connection with some of the items (decisions 1991/202 F to I).